

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 17, 19, 20 and 21 are amended to distinguish the present claims from the cited references, particularly Saito and Weschler. Claims 2 and 3 are amended to correct antecedence. Claim 22 is added.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claims 1, 5, 17, 19, 20 and 21 and new claim 22 can be found throughout the specification, for example, from page 6, line 16 to page 8, line 4.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, and apparently also claims 17 and 19-21, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,587,219 (hereinafter "Saito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,332 (hereinafter "Weschler").

Claims 4-11, and apparently also claims 17 and 18, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito in view of Weschler and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,226 (hereinafter "Miyahara").

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito in view of Weschler, further in view of Miyahara, and still further in view of an allegedly known feature of conversion of a PDL file.

Claim 14, and apparently also claims 15 and 16, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito in view of Weschler, in view of Miyahara, in view of an allegedly known feature of conversion of a PDL file, and further in view of the allegedly known feature of checking for a virus in electronic mail.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed extensively in prior responses, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teachings of Saito and Weschler. The Patent Office has yet to respond to the argument that these two references would not have been combined.

In the Advisory Action, the Patent Office alleges that the Final Office Action explained the combination of Miyahara and the Saito-Weschler combination. However, the Patent Office has not explained how one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the teachings of Saito with the teachings of Weschler.

In fact, Saito would have led one away from combining the references in the manner asserted by the Patent Office. Saito discloses an invention where the operator can transmit image information via a relay apparatus only by inputting a facsimile number of the final destination. See column 3, lines 31-35 and column 5, lines 16-24 of Saito. Because Saito works through input of information already known by the user, there is no need for the conducting of any searching. As previously explained, it is not necessary in Saito for searching an output apparatus group for one candidate output apparatus or a plurality of candidate output apparatuses in response to a search request from a terminal apparatus.

Thus, in the Saito system, there is no need for searching an output apparatus group for one candidate output printing apparatus or a plurality of candidate output printing apparatuses in response to a search request from a terminal apparatus because a facsimile number of the final destination is required. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked elsewhere, such as Weschler, to add a search function to Saito as Saito requires the input of known information.

Furthermore, none of the references, in combination or alone, teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 5, 17, 19, 20 and 21. In particular, none of the references teach or suggest a managing section for managing a mail address for each output printing apparatus, a search section, a notifying section for notifying the terminal apparatus of the mail address of said candidate output printing apparatus found in a search by the search section; a distinguishing section for distinguishing a designated output printing apparatus and a designated output printing apparatus that produces printed output as recited in claims 1, 5, 17, 19, 20 and 21.

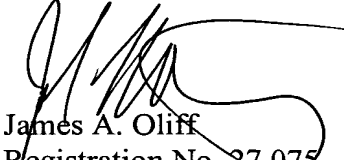
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that that none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-22. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

JAO:JSA:LL/rav

Date: May 9, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
